

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 02014 291422Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AF-06 /083 W

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R 291215Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 2014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, SP, UR

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDIST'S DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION IN SPAIN

1. A VETERAN LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST, G. D. BUCHKO, COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON SITUATION IN POST-FRANCO SPAIN DURING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, REVIEW OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PROPAGANDIST EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS HOPE THAT KING JUAN CARLOS WOULD "MODERNIZE" COUNTRY, BUT LEFTIST FORCES IN SPAIN WERE CHARACTERIZED AS DISUNITED AND EFFECTIVELY SUPPRESSED BY ANTI-COMMUNISTS.

2. PROPAGANDIST CREDITED KING WITH DESIRE TO IMPLEMENT POLICY OF SLOW MOVEMENT TOWARD MODERNIZATION. AMNESTY WAS TERMED A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH ITS SCOPE WAS CRITICIZED AS "NOT THAT DESIRED BY LEFTIST PROGRESSIVES IN SPAIN." PROPAGANDIST SAID THAT LEFTIST FORCES IN SPAIN WERE DISUNITED IN THEIR ORGANIZATION AND WERE PERHAPS "RELYING TOO MUCH" ON HOPE THAT KING WOULD GIVE COUNTRY NEW CONSTITUTION. IN ANY EVENT, SPANISH ARMED FORCES RECEIVED BACKHANDED COMPLIMENT FOR BEING THOROUGHLY EDUCATION IN ANTI-COMMUNISM AND FOR CLOSELY SUPPORTING REGIME. PROPAGANDIST NOTED THAT SITUATION WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN PORTUGAL, WHERE ARMED FORCES WERE ALIENATED DUE TO INVOLVEMENT IN COLONIAL WARS.

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3. COMMENT: NATURE OF PROPAGANDIST'S REMARKS MADE IT CLEAR
THAT POST-FRANCO SPAIN IS NOT BEING BILLED HERE AS A
DEVELOPING DEMOCRACY, BUT KING AND HIS ACTIONS WERE DESCRIBED
IN RELATIVELY BENIGN MANNER AND PROPAGANDIST DID NOT MENTION
STANDARD PERJORATIVE TERM "FACIST SPAIN."
NEUBERT

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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